There are many Biblical images for the People of God – flock, body, temple, vineyard.

Today we look at the Vineyard.

[1] **It is a parallel for the People of God.**
Vineyard imagery can be found in Psalm 80 and in Isaiah 5.1-7, 27.2-4.

In recent weeks we have been following the Exodus story, seeing how God forged the People of God, whose responsibility was to obey God & God’s morality.

[2] **It shows what happens when responsibility shirked.**

They failed this responsibility many times.

The Matthew story (21.33-46) shows betrayal by the People of God. The Owner tries different ways to solve the problem before being left with no option.

In Romans (9-11) Paul wrestles with a dilemma: ‘if Christians are now the People of God, what of the Jews?’

A question today is: Are Christians any better than the Jews? For instance, does all our parish activity reflect God’s will? Does it promote the reign of God?

[3] **It shows that God does not give up**.

Good news – God is committed for the long term, the reign of God will come, come what may.

Scary news – God will find the most effective means to achieve the reign of God.

If we become obstacles not partners we will be bypassed.

Rather than defending ourselves, or worse, being smug, we should come with humility, seek God’s forgiveness and the Holy Spirit to start afresh.